

Anaya's Thumb

Written by **Natasha Sharma**

Illustrated by **Ruchi Shah**



‘Anaya’s Thumb’ by Natasha Sharma

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© Pratham Books, 2014

First English Edition: 2014

ISBN: 978-81-8479-527-1

Typesetting and layout:
Pratham Books, Bengaluru

Printed by:
Rave India, New Delhi

Published by:
Pratham Books
www.prathambooks.org

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The development of this book has been supported by



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Written by **Natasha Sharma**

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Anaya's most favorite thing in the world is her thumb. She loves her round, thick and blobby thumb as it sits in her mouth. She sucks it in bed, she sucks it in class and she sucks it on the swing. She sucks it all the time!



Her parents don't like it much and are always saying, '**Your thumb smells**', '**Anaya stop!**', '**Anaya don't!**'



Anaya is at the zoo today. Her parents do not look at her thumb since they are busy looking at the animals.



Anaya sees an elephant. She spots a calf that is not splashing with his mother. He is not trumpeting with his father. He is not eating bananas with his friends. What is the baby elephant doing? Sucking his trunk! **CHUSK! CHUSK!**



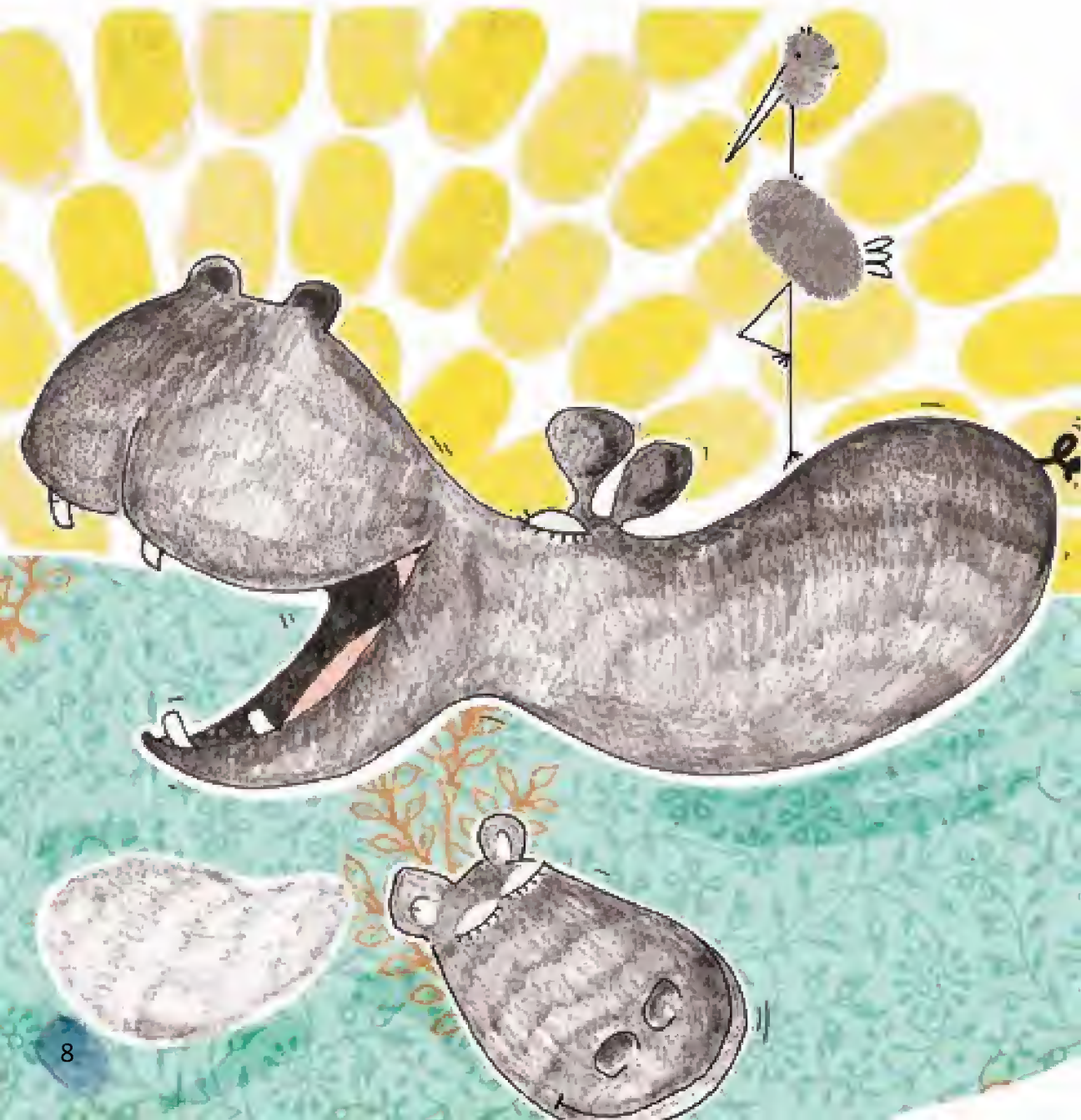
Just ahead are some deer. Anaya sees a fawn that is not munching with her mother. She is not looking at other animals like her father. She is not prancing with her friends. What is the baby deer doing? Sucking her hoof! **CHUSK! CHUSK!**





Next, the monkeys call out. Anaya spots an infant who is not clinging to her mother. She is not playing the clown with her father. She is not playing hide and seek with her friends. What is the baby monkey doing? Sucking her thumb! **CHUSK! CHUSK!**

Anaya spots hippos in the water. She sees a hippopotamus calf that is not yawning wide with her mother. She is not grunting with her father. She is not swimming with her friends. What is the baby hippo doing? Sucking her lip! **CHUSK! CHUSK!**



The tigers welcome her with a growl. And look at that tiger cub! He is not snoozing with his mother. He is not swatting flies with his father. He is not sneaking up on his friends. What is the baby tiger doing? Sucking his tail! **CHUSK! CHUSK!**





Anaya sits down and thinks of the baby animals that are missing all the fun. Anaya looks at the people around her. She sees a boy on his father's shoulders waving his arms. She sees a boy carrying cotton candy and a juice can.



She sees a girl clicking pictures with a camera. She sees a baby shaking her rattle. All the children are having fun! Anaya looks down her nose and sees her own hand curled up, with the thumb in her mouth. Could she put her thumb to better use?



Anaya pulls her thumb out of her mouth, runs ahead and stops between her parents. She holds onto their hands, counts 1-2-3, jumps up and swings high in the air. **“WHEEE!”**

And the little baby monkey watching her from above does the same.



Pratham Books was set up in 2004, as part of the Read India movement, a nation-wide campaign to promote reading among children. Pratham Books is a not-for-profit organization that publishes quality books for children in multiple Indian languages. Our mission is to see "a book in every child's hand" and democratize the joy of reading. If you would like to contribute to our mission, please email us at info@prathambooks.org.



Natasha Sharma was a pencil-end-chewing, two-finger-sucking, lip-biting, nail-nibbling kind of child. She grew up to be a brand manager. She now writes books for children and is a good adult who sneakily nibbles one nail sometimes. This book is for all little children who struggle to let go of their thumbs, fingers, lips and toes.



Ruchi Shah is inspired by stories and the world around her. Working on a hunch, often by mixing layers of colors, textures and materials, she marries the gap between fact and fiction seamlessly. A dreamer and illustrator of experiences, the ever-curious Ruchi also paints walls in schools and homes to make spaces come alive.

Anaya loves her thumb. When she visits the zoo, she finds out what baby animals seem to like.

Learning to read – level by level. This is a Level 2 book.

**Beginning to Read/
Read Aloud**

For very young children who are eager to begin reading and listening to stories

1

Learning to Read

For children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help

2

Reading Proficiently

For older children who can read with confidence

4

3

**Reading
Independently**

For children who are ready to read on their own



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(English)

MRP: ₹ 30.00

ISBN 978-81-8479-527-1



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